

## The Journal and Courier

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

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## Notes.

We cannot accept anonymous or return rejected communications. In all cases the name of the writer will be required for publication, but as a guarantee good faith.

Russell Sage has the grip—the kind that he has to take medicine for.

The fact that the War department has actually advertised for bids on 70,000 yards of red tape is considered one of the best jokes of the season.

The Nebraska legislature has adjourned and for the first time in twelve years no anti-railroad legislation has been enacted. Perhaps the legislators couldn't think of anything more to do against the railroads.

A big retail butcher of New York says that if the heads of hotels and families, or one-half or one-third of them, could be got together and pledged to buy no beef for a month, the beef trust would be broken. Nothing could hold up the price of beef in the face of a general cessation of the demand.

One of the fads of the new Czar of Russia is the study of electricity. He is intensely interested in everything pertaining to electrical science, and reads eagerly descriptions of the latest experiments and applications in that line of endeavor. He is said to have made several ingenious contrivances himself in the simpler lines of electrical manipulation.

A Japanese resident of San Francisco writes to a paper of that city in this fashion: "I came from the far East a few months ago, and my purpose was to see what your civilized nation was doing. Since I arrived in this city, reading your valuable paper every day, I am much surprised because murder is almost a daily occurrence in this country, besides robbery, reverend doctors robbing and eloping with other men's wives, etc."

In spite of the repeated assurances on the part of the semi-official Russian press that the deportation of criminal and political convicts to Siberia had ceased, it appears from municipal returns now published at Moscow that exactly 11,500 convicts passed through that city on their way to the penal settlements of Siberia during the last year. This is in addition to the 2,000 criminals classed as dangerous who were embarked during 1894 at Odessa for the island of Sakhalin, which lies to the north of Japan, and is used exclusively for offenders of the most desperate character.

The bill of fare at Edward Atkinson's Abnott-oven dinner to members of the Cabinet embraced spring lamb, fried chicken, green peas and other vegetables, besides ham, Boston brown bread and baked beans, and Indian pudding. Mr. Atkinson recently gave a party of friends a seven-course dinner, including coffee and oranges, at a cost of 13 cents a plate. Perhaps his greatest triumph in the way of cheap cooking was the dinner of four courses he furnished some Harvard students at a cost of five and a quarter cents each. It is a pet saying of Mr. Atkinson that the cigars always cost more than the dinner.

A failure in one of the penalties provided in connection with the income tax law is pointed out by the Philadelphia Ledger, which says: "If any man with an income between \$2,500 and \$4,000 should fail to report to the collector of internal revenue he need not worry about the penalty to be imposed. He is required to make report, but the penalty for neglect provided in the act does not reach his case. Fifty per cent. is to be added to the amount of tax ascertained to be due. But 50 per cent. added to nothing makes nothing, and that is all that the individuals with incomes between \$2,500 and \$4,000 can be made to pay if they should neglect to make returns."

Divorce is not so smooth in the State of Washington as it has appeared to be. Judge Moore of the Supreme court has announced that no person divorced in that State can legally marry in any commonwealth of the United States until the expiration of six months from the date of the decree of separation, because under the law of Washington a period of six months is given within which either party may appeal for a rehearing. While this would not affect those whose sole desire is to be released from galling matrimonial bonds, yet as

the majority who have acquired citizenship by a six months' residence there as preliminary to securing a divorce have expected to remarry as soon as set free by the court, and this announcement that they must pass a probationary period of six months before they can again marry will be anything but satisfactory.

## AGAIN THE BRIDGE.

The more the East Hartford Bridge matter is looked at the more interesting it becomes. A notable feature of the majority report is the emphatic and unqualified statement that it does not appear, whatever entered into the original designs of the commissioners, that any corrupt means were resorted to in securing the passage of the act in question (the act of 1893, transferring the bridge to State control), in the sense of improper influences brought to bear upon members of the General Assembly. "On the other hand, it very clearly appears that the passage of the bill was largely due to the honest efforts of influential members of the General Assembly, whose integrity is beyond question."

This being the case, and a contract having been made that was not a dishonest one, what consistency is there in the ingenious compromise planned by the majority report? It is said that the report to be made by Messrs. Gunn and Goodrich will declare that the State has made a contract and must keep it. This will be at least consistent. If the State makes a foolish and unprofitable contract it must pay the same penalty that individuals pay for a like performance.

## A CHANCE FOR THE CHAMBER.

Ex-Mayor Sargent yesterday in the august presence of a legislative committee more than hinted that the New Haven Chamber of Commerce, which was founded over one hundred years ago for the noble purpose of looking after New Haven's interests in molasses, sugar and rum, is not now a useful body. This charge may make some stir and it may even be referred to at the next annual banquet of the Chamber. But the way to deal with it is not to try to talk it to death. It can be slain by action that will plainly disprove it. For instance, if the Chamber of Commerce will take hold of New Haven's great dust nuisance and abolish it it will do a public service which will entitle it not only to be called useful, but will entitle it to the lively gratitude of all who suffer from the dust. We do not know of anything just now that needs more attention than this nuisance. Thousands of the men and women of New Haven are going about with their noses, throats and lungs sore from the sharp and poisonous dust which they have been obliged to breathe during the last few weeks. The goods in the stores are being damaged by it, and also the furniture in the houses. There is much private complaint, but not much public protest. It has been found that public protest does no good. There is an "interest" or something in the way, and so the people of New Haven go on year after year suffering in health and in wealth from a nuisance which proper and definite action could deal with in short measure. How long must it be endured? Will not the Chamber of Commerce unburden itself of the reproach that has been cast upon it by the ex-mayor by tackling the dust nuisance and fighting it to a finish? And if the Chamber of Commerce can't and won't do it, why can't there be an Anti-Dust League formed that will do it? Something should be done. It is not sensible for the people of New Haven to be buried before they are dead, and it is not sensible for them to eat more than a peck of dust each year or to breathe more than a bushel of the same.

## THE GERMAN CARP CRAZE.

A few years ago there was a German carp craze in this country, which affected even the government. The carp was hailed as a valuable food fish, a rapid breeder and grower, and an inexhaustible source of sport for those fond of fishing. But the craze has subsided. The carp thrives only in warm, sluggish water with a soft bottom; it multiplies rapidly and attains a weight of from five to fifteen pounds; as food it is fairly palatable when properly cooked, but inferior to most of our native fish; it is absolutely devoid of "gamey" qualities, as it never rises to the fly, seldom takes bait of any kind, and is rarely captured by the angler. For sportsmen it is an utterly useless fish. And some complaints are now made against it which, if they are true, show that it is worse than useless to sportsmen. The carp is accused of spoiling the favorite feeding grounds of wild ducks. A "scientific sportsman" thus makes his complaint in the Cincinnati Times-Star: "The importation of this species of worthless fish is making havoc among the feeding grounds of wild ducks, and as carp increase the ducks recede. In parts of Ohio and Indiana there are great stretches of duck grounds that are practically worthless on account of the lack of food. Carp eat the bulbs of plants that feed the ducks, and thus by degrees will kill off duck food. Keepers of gambling grounds are complaining seriously of the ravenous stranger fish that should have been allowed to remain in the foreign waters." A Toledo sportsman says, through the columns of the Blade of that city, that along the western end

of Lake Erie and in various waters of Ohio the carp are gradually destroying the wild rice by eating the roots, and that this process will, in a not very long period, spoil the favorite feeding grounds of the ducks, by destroying their principal article of food in those localities. Rochester sportsmen whose well-informed confirm these statements.

Perhaps it would have been better to let the German carp stay in Germany. It has apparently turned out to be one of those undesirable importations that we read about.

## FASHION NOTES.

## Hats Generally Big and Showy.

Speaking generally of millinery, if a soft hat to match the gown be not worn, then a big rough straw turned up jauntily and trimmed in a dashing way with a pair of spreading satin bows and an unexpected wing, is to be the usual street wear. Something noteworthy by way of novelty is that a brown hat is to be admitted with any shade of dress, as for years a brown derby has been admissible with any color of men's suit. A favorite combination for the street is a tall gown of black, a rough brown straw hat trimmed with great brown satin bows, gloves of brown kid stitched heavily up the back with



black, and shoes of brown to match worn with brown stockings.

The hat contributed here by the artist is of black velours, its wide brim turned up in the back with a full bow of cherry and ruby changeable taffeta ribbon. The low crown is encircled with a twisted fold of the same ribbon edged with narrow spangles, and forms several loops in front from which rises a feathery black algerette. Several ostrich plumes fall over the brim at the sides and complete the trimming.

Little felt hats of low crown and broad brim are worn with the helmet turned straight back in two or three places against the crown in front, each place caught by a rosette or a flower. Then the brim is quite cut away and dispensed with at the back. A piquant face can stand this sort of thing, but large and placid women beyond thirty should forbear.

Some of the prettiest Irish lawns come in dress patterns, a dainty sun bonnet all ready for the insertion of "stays" included with each pattern. A pretty girl looks her very prettiest in a sun bonnet; ask him and see what he says.

## SUNNY.

"If the sun had never else to do but to shine on the righteous, it would be hardly worth while for him to rise as early as he does."—Texas Sittings.

He strode before the footlights in trappings gay and rich. But he couldn't buy, when the play was done, A little ham sandwich.

Friend—How are you doing now? Scribbler—First rate. The Rev. Mr. Scintille and I have gone into partnership. Making money hand over fist. "Eh? How do you manage that?" I write books and he denounces them."—New York Weekly.

Mutual Friend—It really is shocking, dear, they way in which you and your husband quarrel and carry on. I wonder you don't separate from him. Injured Wife—What! Go away and leave him alone to do just as he likes? Not me,—Tid-Bits.

Mrs. Peck—This paper says that a sea captain says that in times of great disaster women are more cool than men. Mr. N. Peck—I have seen instances of it. "You? I'd like to know when?" "When they were getting married."—Atlanta Journal.

"I had a long argument with Jinx this morning," said the controversial man, "and I am convinced." "So he told me." "Ha! He acknowledged it to you, did he?" "Yes. He said he'd rather be convinced than talked to death, any day."—Washington Star.

When the bellows gave out and the organist in a Rockland church was unable to get anything but a few groans from the instrument, the pastor remarked: "The organ has failed us at the vital moment; let us rise and sing. Praise God from whom all blessings flow."—Lewiston Journal.

"Hypnotism," said the professor, "in our present state of knowledge, may be defined as the power exerted by one person over the mind of another." "Why," giggled the flirty girl, "that is just the same as falling in love." "I said 'mind,' my dear young lady," retorted the professor, "Cincinnati Tribune."

## THE FLEETING SHOW.

Some of Its Facts and Fancies.

[Written for the JOURNAL AND COURIER.]

## BLUNDERING PENS.

It sometimes happens that the pen, of an experienced writer even, trips in writing as queerly as the tongue trips when governed by a confused brain. This is not strange, but what is really surprising is that the author may revise, the editor may examine, the printer set up in type, and the proof-reader correct, yet the illy-constructed or even ridiculous sentence may clude them all and appear in the completed volume for critical readers to censure and laugh at.

The novice may be reasonably ex-

pected to perpetrate some blunders in composition, but these do not usually meet the public eye. Occasionally, however, the blunders are collected by those who have the opportunity and given us for our amusement and instruction. Thus, a Superintendent of Education furnishes us with these few literary "gems," called from Mrs. offered at a competitive examination.

"Her hand was cold, like that of a serpent." "The Countess was about to reply when the door opened and closed her mouth."

"Ha! Ha!" he exclaimed in Portuguese. "The Colonel paced backward and forward, with his hands behind his back, reading the newspaper."

These are ludicrous, but blunders almost as bad have been made by well-known novelists. For the one last mentioned Anthony Trollope furnished a counterpart when he wrote of a man "walking down the street whistling with a cigar in his mouth." Some of his friends having called his attention to the sentence Mr. Trollope refused to consider it an impossibility and insisted that a man could smoke and whistle at the same time. Nevertheless, when he tried to perform this feat he failed ignominiously.

Joseph Hutton, in "Under the Great Seal" deviated from the rules of syntax when he wrote, "David had been allotted a corner of the room." What he meant was that a corner of the room had been allotted to David, which is quite another thing.

In one of Benson's stories a young man is asked what he has been hunting.

"Oh, hares—lots of them," said Reggie, with his mouth full of bread and cheese whose natural healthy appetite had never been disturbed by love."

It would not have been difficult to construct this sentence so that there would have been no doubt as to whether it was "Reggie" or the bread and cheese that had never been "disturbed by love." Needless to say, that our common sense informs us upon that point, the sentence as it stands is obscure and ridiculous.

But as bad a slip as has been seen of late is one in the current number of "The Bookman." "The Bookman," of all things! A journal purely literary and thoroughly enjoyable. At the beginning of a notice of Anna Katharine Green's new story, "The Doctor, His Wife, and The Clock," the reviewer says: "There is one thing about these stories which begin with a mysterious murder to be grateful for—they plunge into their business at once with an 'end of the century' speed."

Stories founded upon mysterious murders are many, but a mysterious murder to be grateful for is something new and surprising. One cannot help wondering whether the reviewer was grateful for an opportunity to commit the crime, or the victim grateful to be released from the burden of life, or the author for a motive for the story. One can hardly conclude that it is the reader who should be grateful, since, as has been said, stories that begin with such mysteries are very common. It is really very confusing. And it would have been so easy to write. There is one thing to be grateful for in these stories which begin with a mysterious murder, etc.

Oh, Syntax! how art thou wounded in the house of thy friends! SANITARY. A very useful suggestion was that made in a paper on "The Restriction of Communicable Disease," read before the Social science convention by Dr. Brannan of New York. He advocated the use of Japanese paper handkerchiefs by consumptive patients as they were cheap, light and soft to handle, and, especially, as they could be burned as soon as the user was through with them. Buying them by the thousand and the one is about one cent for four handkerchiefs, a trifling sum compared with the price of linen or cotton.

As handkerchiefs used by persons suffering with consumption or catarrhal difficulties should never be washed with the rest of the household linen, and as it is troublesome to wash them separately, and disagreeable and sometimes unsafe to cleanse them in any way, why should not paper handkerchiefs be substituted in these or in all cases of illness? They should be clear white, soft and pliant. They seem to be well adapted to the use of invalids, and their immediate destruction by fire safely disposes of those discarded.

## THE HONEYMOON ALBUM.

The expectant brides are hereby advised that their preparations for the wedding journey are not complete unless they include among their possessions a "honey-moon album." These are usually made of a number of double sheets of heavy linen paper, cut any desired size, usually wider than they are long. The binding is a matter for the bride's taste to decide. It may be of rough card-board, white linen, white chambray or velvet, painted or embroidered with such flowers as she is to wear at the wedding. But the satin of the wedding dress, or the material of the going-away gown, drawn smoothly over Bristol board forms the most appropriate and suggestive binding. The double leaves are tied and sewed in, or the book may be regularly bound by the bookbinder. Into this album go all those souvenirs of the wedding journey that brides collect and cherish. Menus, small unmounted photographs, pressed flowers and all those trifles that seem so worthless and that mean so much, make up the contents of the honeymoon album, a book that may be treasured through life, and, possibly, handed down to succeeding generations as an interesting relic of "Grand-mamma, married away back in the eighteen hundred and nineties."

## HILARY.

Dreary Dinners for the Yang Yua. (From the Chicago Times-Herald.) Washington, March 22.—No one in Washington is more grateful for the conclusion of the dinner-giving season than the quiet little wife of the Chinese minister. All through the winter Minister and Mrs. Yang Yu have accepted three or four invitations each week. In Washington the custom of inviting interpreters of legations to diplomatic dinners has never obtained, and the result of this oversight is that Mr. and Mrs. Yang Yu were compelled to sit from 7:30 or eight o'clock in the evening until 10:30 or 11 without speaking a word. The command of English is limited to "Yes, please," "No, thank you," and "How do you do?" and it is easy to imagine the torture they must

have suffered through these long and dreary evenings. They were even forbidden the pleasure of talking to one another, for the custom requires a guest and his wife to be seated at different parts of the table. In every other capital of the world the custom is to invite the interpreters of embassies and legations when a minister and his wife are unable to converse with the host and the other guests.

## The "Flopp" Easily Made.

[From the San Francisco Call.] "A first-class newspaper man was spilt when Professor Kennedy, of the Franklin Grammar school, became a pedagogue," said Thomas Mayne to a number of friends at the Baldwin hotel last night. "I used to know Professor Kennedy in Santa Clara county, when for a time he edited the 'Santa Clara Tribune' for John Sullivan. One of the burning questions at that time was whether the county should donate to the Southern Pacific company about three hundred thousand dollars worth of bonds that had been subscribed for by the county in aid of the railroad. Professor Kennedy wrote a vigorous article in the 'Tribune' against the donation to the railroad company. Sullivan was under the weather at the time, but managed to hop around to the office and said:

"See here, Kennedy, I don't want you to go too far on that, because I may have to flop, you know." "Kennedy replied: 'Oh, that's all right, the paper can flop easily enough when the time comes.' "The next week another stirring article was printed in the 'Tribune' against giving the bonds to the company."

A day or two afterward Sullivan sent for his editorial writer and said: "It's all right, Kennedy, give the paper the flop. The railroad has fixed it with me satisfactorily."

"The next issue of the paper contained the following: "We have been paid our price and therefore we flop, and have nothing further to say against giving the bonds to the railroad company. We believe that is the best thing to be done."

"Kennedy was discharged, and from that day to this he has said that Sullivan's lack of appreciation of his ability as a newspaper writer shunted him out of the journalistic profession."

## The Plantation Negro's Love of Hunting.

[From the Philadelphia Times.]

It is the abundance of game of all kinds and of fish which makes the plantation negroes so improvident. The love of hunting is a passion with the Southerner and with all the negroes on his place. If one of the field hands ploughs, hoofs or harvesting sees a chance for a good shot, such as evidences of the close proximity of a fox, a wild turkey's tracks in the soft soil, indication that a possum lodges in some tree, or a big owl caught far from its haunts by daylight, he telegraphs his valuable information in some mysterious way to his employers up at the house.

In a twinkling guns are loaded, horses are mounted, the dogs are set on the trail and master and workmen are in hot pursuit of the lately discovered denizen of the woods. The first time in his life that a negro boy has anything which he can call his own he swaps it for a dog that can run rabbits. He trains the dog to bring those rabbits to him when they are caught, no matter how much the dog may like the taste of rabbit flesh himself. When the negro boy has attained the importance of being able to earn a little "outside money"—that is, money made by hoeing or picking cotton, gathering peas, breaking corn, driving a wagon or other occupations which he has been smart enough to take up in addition to his regular work—he buys a gun, usually a cheap one, with a single barrel. In a twinkling guns are loaded, horses are mounted, the dogs are set on the trail and master and workmen are in hot pursuit of the lately discovered denizen of the woods. 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